"And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness."

VOL. XXXVIII.

MONCTON, N. B., MARCH 28TH, 1949

No. 220

THE CHALLENGE OF

THIS GENERATION

Rev. A. E. Collins in "Herald of Holiness"

THE TASK OF EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the task enjoined upon those who have received the call of God to preach the gospel. And what a tremendous task it is! When Jesus sent His disciples forth, He definitely commissioned them to make disciples of all nations, and our commission demands no less of us. In view of this, it is well for us frequently to call a halt and ask ourselves some questions, such as these:

Just what is our business as a church? And, in that business, what is our objective? We are all agreed as to what our business is. In the final analysis, it is to shepherd our flocks, instruct, reprove, and encourage; to warn the unsaved to flee from the wrath to come; to go after the wanderer and bring him to Christ.

But then, What is our objective? For whether we are distinctly conscious of it or not, we all have an objective; and what is that objective? Is it to build strong churches so that they will be self-sustaining and free from debt; support the various funds of the church; increase the church membership so the church will pay a good salary; and leave it in every way prosperous for one's successor? Any and all of these objectives may be commendable; but, of themselves, they are insufficient and fall short when compared with the New Testament standards of evangelism.

The Objective of Evangelism

What, then, should be our objective? In reply, we would suggest that we should endeavor under the power of the Holy Spirit to make our churches great spiritual lighthouses, life-saving stations, where a perennial revival is normalcy. Periodic, special evangelistic effort has its place and may give fresh impetus to the spiritual life and program of the church; but a burning passion for the souls of the unsaved and unsanctified must not be permitted to wane during the intervals between special efforts.

If we can live and carry on without seeing souls blessed, we shall have to do without definite victories; but when we reach the place where we feel we must have souls or we shall die, God will honor us with them. This is the testimony of saints who have accomplished things for God in other days; and it is the experience of those who are succeeding today.

We should thank God for the splendid and competent leaders whom God has given to our church. But, beloved, there is something we

need in addition to great leaders. That something is an army of sanctified pastors, evangelists, and laymen—all sons of the King, and all like unto soldiers in Gideon's army. Then out of such an army, God shall bring His Davids and His Gideons to the front, and the enemies of the Cross shall be defeated, and the cause of holiness triumph gloriously.

What then should be our objective as individual ministers and churches? To build strong and spiritual churches, which will be considered not an end in themselves, but rather a means to an end. Let us take as our model the great "Mother Church" founded on the Day of Pentecost. See how it flourished; and when persecution arose, we read, "They that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." Or, if that is too far removed as a model, let us go back to the days of the Wesleys, and take the zeal and enthusiasm of the Fathers of Methodism as our example. See how the cause of holiness, under them, prospered and spread, often in the midst of the most violent persecution. When our churches come up to full strength, then it is time for them to swarm and establish a new church, instead of becoming established and secure in self-complacency and self-sufficiency.

The Scope of Evangelism

Nor must we confine ourselves in our evangelization to our present pastorates. In the words of Mr. Wesley, "The world is our parish." We venture to suggest that in Canada and the United States there are thousands of towns, cities, and communities that at present have no holiness work. Every one of these, with few exceptions, is a potential harvest field that, with prayer, labor, and means expended upon them, would yield a harvest of souls.

In such places there are perishing men and women who are waiting for the gospel of full salvation. In these places there are young men and young women who would respond to the call for service if someone would only take to them the Word of Life. In these places there are people who would line up with the cause of holiness and support the program of our church. In these places there are people by the thousands who will be lost if we fail to respond to the Macedonian call for help. Thus our opportunity becomes our responsibility. We are not responsible for the salvation of past generations; we are only indirectly responsible for future generationsbut, we are responsible for our own generation. If not we, then who is responsible?

Furthermore, we must evangelize in order to retain our spirituality and, ultimately, our own identity. We are not without illustration of this fact even in our own time. Activity is one of the laws of life; and, when we cease from activity, decay invariably ensues. Candidates for the ministry are found in revivals of religion; and, where there are no revivals, there is bound to be a scarcity of preacher material. Therefore, we must evangelize.

HOW IMPORTANT IS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?

By Ruth Harding

bols a Daily Vacation Bible School important? Let me answer that question by asking you another. Can any child get enough Bible Study? Would you consider it a worthwhile project if you could give the youngsters in your church twice as much Bible study as they are now getting each year? That's practically what you're doing in a Vacation Bible School. A two week's session gives you approximately thirty hours of concentrated Bible Study. Few Sunday School students receive more than that during the entire year. Then again, in a V. B. S. the youngsters study every day for two weeks which gives the teacher an opportunity to correlate her Bible study in such a way that youngsters won't forget it as they do when each study period is seven days apart.

And, would you consider it a worthwhile investment if you had an opportunity to present the gospel to a large number of unchurched children in your community, and to attract many of them into your Sunday School? The D. V. B. S. gives you these opportunities in a way that no other program has ever done. Furthermore, you have a wonderful chance to contact the parents of these same children because the Demonstration Program usually held at the close of your Bible School session will bring out many fathers and mothers who would not ordinarily attend church.

Think what it might mean to a youngster to have an opportunity to study God's Word through a part of his summer. Free time often becomes a serious moral hazard, as juvenile court records show. These youngsters are alive and unless they are given an opportunity to use their energy in the right direction, it may be used otherwise. The course of a child's summer activities, even the destiny of his mortal soul, may very well be determined by whether or not he can spend a portion of his summer under the influence of God's word.

Youngsters love a D. V. B. S. because they listen to the Bible study; there they make the little objects that help bear home to them the

(Continued on Page 8)